



# Flashpoint

Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter  
Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Phila-Delaware Valley  
SFPE

## Special points of interest:

- > Check out page 4 for a history of fire article.
- > See page 4 for a free seminar on Condensed Aerosol Fire Suppression System.

## March Meeting Information

**Date:** Tuesday March 11, 2014

**Place:** Jacobs Engineering Group  
Three Tower Bridge Suite 3000  
Conshohocken, PA

See Page 6 for directions

**5:30 PM:** Fellowship Time

**6:30 PM:** Dinner

**Dinner Program:** Dan Carson of Jacobs Engineering will be discussing Flammable liquids, warehouse design, including foam water systems, rack storage arrangements, drainage, fire water containment and estimating. The presentation will focus on the challenges of a

avoiding a good code compliant design that allows the user to be able to exhibit sustainable growth. Dan graduated from The University of Rochester with a BS in Chemical Engineering and Widener University with a Masters in Chemical Engineering. Currently, he is a Process Safety and Fire Protection Engineer in the Fire Protection Department at Jacobs in Conshohocken.

**Cost:** \$25.00 for dinner & program

**Reservations:** By 12 noon, Friday,  
March 7, 2014

**Reserve with:** Jeff LaSalle by E-mail:  
[jlalalle@lasalleeng.com](mailto:jlalalle@lasalleeng.com) or Fax: (215)  
658-1772 ♦

## Update to Antifreeze Use in Sprinkler Systems

In an article in the SFPE magazine William Koffel went into the changes to the requirements of antifreeze systems in the 2013 edition of NFPA 13 and also the requirements in NFPA 25 for testing and maintenance. For new systems, the 2013 edition of NFPA 13D will permit the use of glycerine to a maximum concentration of 48% by volume and propylene glycol to a maximum concentration of 38% by volume in specific areas of dwelling units where acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. NFPA 13D will permit the use of glycerine to a maximum concentration of 50% by volume and propylene glycol to a maximum concentration of 40% by volume for existing sprinkler systems.

### Existing Systems

For all other sprinkler systems for which compliance with NFPA 25 is required, there are several options provided regarding existing systems. The use of an antifreeze solution specifically listed for use in fire protection systems will be required effective September 30, 2022. In the meantime, if all of the following criteria are met, existing antifreeze systems may remain in service:

The concentration of the antifreeze solution shall be limited to 50% glycerin by volume or 40% propylene glycol by volume.

Newly introduced solutions shall be factory premixed antifreeze solutions (chemically pure or United States Pharmacopoeia 96.5%).

Antifreeze systems with concentrations in excess of 30% propylene glycol and 38% glycerine shall be permitted based upon an approved risk assessment.

The provision permitting premixed antifreeze solutions of propylene glycol exceeding 30% concentration by volume will continue to be permitted for use with ESFR sprinklers where the ESFR sprinklers are listed for such use in a specific application. Copyright SFPE.org

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#### FLASHPOINT

"The purpose of FLASHPOINT is to provide a forum for the transfer of information between members of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) and to give the Chapter visibility."

Newsletter/Publicity Committee: Jay Stough  
Information for publication can be submitted to: **Jay Stough**

Email: [jays@tilleyfire.com](mailto:jays@tilleyfire.com)  
This Newsletter is published 9 or 10 times/year

(September through June) and received as part of membership of the Chapter. Membership Dues are \$30.00 collected annually in the Fall of the Year. For an Application of Membership contact: **Jeff LaSalle**

Email: [jlalle@lasalleeng.com](mailto:jlalle@lasalleeng.com)  
Visit our web site at: [www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org)

Articles written are the views of the Author and not necessarily those of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of SFPE. ❖

## High Rise Building Safety Advisory Committee releases new document on Emergency action plans for high rise buildings

The High-Rise Building Safety Advisory Committee has recently completed and published a new document related to developing emergency action plans for high rise office buildings. The management of building occupants within high-rise buildings is a critical concern during emergencies. While procedures for fire evacuation have been developed and adopted by major fire and emergency services throughout North America, there remains considerable variation in practice in the field. This guide can be used to develop emergency action plans that are required by many occupancies in other NFPA codes such as and [NFPA 101, Life Safety Code®](#).

With the increased recognition of the need to prepare and respond to non-fire threats such as extreme weather, workplace violence, and utility disruptions in the high-rise environment, the traditional building fire safety plan and organization are a logical starting point. In fact, the document recommends that a single, integrated plan and preparedness and response organization be utilized to assist building management and emergency responders in an all-hazard approach to building emergencies. The Committee recognizes that while there is a considerable body of practice in this area, research into and evaluation of these methods and policies are limited. This document is an attempt to fill that void and to inspire AHJs and building management to embrace the challenge.

The guide addresses the development of the emergency action plan, the roles and responsibilities of those executing, training, and participating in the plan, evacuation strategies, response to all-hazard emergencies, training and education, tabletop exercises, and procedures for reviewing and updating an existing emergency action plan.

The document is available to download, for free, at NFPA's [high-rise building safety page](#).

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**What was the first defensive position that Ryne Sandberg played for the Phillies?**

*Answer on page 5*

## Leaders Should Learn to Love Bad News

Leaders should remember the importance of seeking out advice they don't want to hear, writes Susan Cramm. It's too easy to frame questions in ways that anticipate positive responses and tacitly encourage workers to keep bad news to themselves, Cramm warns.

"Have the courage to seek the truth you don't want to find by trading in the power of your position for the power of information," she advises.

[Click Here](#) to view article.

## April Fire Networking Coalition

The annual Networking event is scheduled for Tuesday April 22, 2014 at the Clarion Hotel in Essington, near the airport. A flyer will be coming out in the next week with details. Registration will start at 3:30 with the opening seminar at 4 PM. The seminar will run to 5:45. There will networking time with a cash bar from 6 to 7. At 7 will be dinner and our keynote speaker. So mark your calendars to save the date!

Jim Davidson receiving an award from the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers in recognition of his outstanding contribu-



tions to DAPE and the engineering community. Jim has been a member of the DAPE Examining and Law Enforcement/Ethics committee for over 20 years. Congratulations Jim!

## 2014 SFPE Conference and Expo

*October 12-17, 2014*

**Location:** Hilton Long Beach & Executive Center in Long Beach, CA.

**Register by September 17 and SAVE!**

Attend the **ONLY** forum designed to solve today's challenges in fire protection engineering. Join leaders in the profession for an unique educational experience that is designed to keep you a step ahead. The two-day Engineering Technology Conference highlights presentations on advanced and cutting-edge practices in fire protection engineering. Following the conference, SFPE will present a series of professional development seminars taught by the profession's leading experts.

Earn valuable CEUs to meet your licensing requirements.

Over 50 exhibits showcasing innovative products and services.

Choose from more than 50 presentations focused on fire protection engineering.

Network with top professional in the world.

Get training from leading subject matter experts in the field.

Visit the [conference website](#) for the most up to date details.



## Silent Knight Seminar

On Wednesday March 5, 2014 our own Jeff LaSalle will be leading a seminar for Silent Knight at the Marriot Hotel in Center City Philadelphia. The focal point will be the application of regional and local codes in designing life safety systems, specifically fire alarms and emergency communications. Continuing Education Units (CEU) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits will be provided. There is no cost, and it runs from 7 AM to 1 PM. Breakfast and lunch are provided. For more information go to [Silent Knight](#).



The year's largest and most important event for the fire protection, life safety, and electrical industries is the NFPA Conference & Expo, widely regarded as the most comprehensive event in the industry.

As the authority on fire, electrical and life safety codes and standards, NFPA is the go-to resource for countless professionals—from architects, engineers, contractors, and building managers to public and private fire service, enforcement agencies, insurers, and utilities. The NFPA Conference & Expo is the one place where every facet of industry comes together to learn, network, and evaluate suppliers.

To register, go to [NFPA Convention](#).

## This Month in Fire History



On Saturday, February 23, 1991, an early evening fire occurred at a 38-story high-rise building in downtown Philadelphia resulting in the death of three fire fighters, fire extension to nine floors, and severe structural damage to the building. During the 18 1/2-hr effort to control the blaze, fire fighting activities were hampered by the loss of electrical power (including emergency power) and inadequate fire attack hose stream pressure to suppress the fire. As a result, the fire was able to spread from the floor of origin, the 22nd floor, to the 29th floor. The vertical fire spread was completely stopped at the 30th floor by an automatic sprinkler system supplied by fire department pumpers through the siamese connection. This significant high-rise fire is being documented by

the NFPA with the cooperation of the Philadelphia Fire Department. [See full NFPA Fire Investigation report](#)

[See NFPA's resource page on high-rise buildings](#) for more information.

Those interested in more information about [firefighter fatalities in the U.S. can download NFPA's free fact sheet and full report.](#)

**"You can't  
build a  
reputation  
on what you  
are going to  
do."**

**Henry Ford**

## Engineers Club of Philadelphia Courses

The Engineer Club of Philadelphia is offering courses for professional development. [You can download a course catalog here.](#)

The fire related courses are shown below. Check it out.

### **Fire Protection**

FP-1: Sprinkler Systems Basics (20 PDH)

Class Dates: Starts Thursday, March 6, 2014, 10 weeks (ending Thursday, May 8, 2014), 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

FP-2: Advanced Sprinkler Systems (25 PDH)

Class Dates: Starts Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 10 weeks (ending Wednesday, May 7, 2014), 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Last month's photo



What's wrong with this picture?

There is actually snow on the pipe from an open vent above. It is a wet system and the pipe did freeze.

## Condensed Aerosol Fire Suppression Systems

A **FREE** Innovations Series sponsored webinar presented by  
*The Society of Fire Protection Engineers*  
Sponsored by Stat-X

**March 26, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. U.S. eastern time**

This presentation describes the technology behind condensed aerosol fire suppression systems, the mechanism by which they extinguish fires, a brief list of performance and qualification fire tests conducted by independent laboratories and agencies, and an overview of special hazards applications where this type of system is in actual use. There is no charge to attend this webinar. **Members of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers will receive 0.1 CEUs for participation in the entire live webinar.** To register, [click here.](#)

# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 ASCET SJ chapter	6	7	8
9	10	11 SFPE Business	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 ASCET Berks	19 ASCET Delaware	20 AFSA Meeting	21	22
23	24	25 ASCET Phila	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

- March 5: NJ ASCET Meeting @ the Collins House in Collingswood, NJ
- March 5: Silent Knight Seminar by Jeff LaSalle @ Marriot Center City Phila.
- March 11: SFPE meeting @ Jacobs Engineering. Don't forget to make your reservation by Friday Feb 7th.
- March 18: Berks County ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Valentino's in Kutztown 6PM
- March 19: Delaware ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington
- March 20: AFSA Meeting @ General Air Products Exton, PA
- March 25: Phila. ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Michael's Dinner in Bensalem

**Trivia Answer**  
**from page 2:**  
*Ryne Sandberg*  
*started as a*  
*Shortstop for*  
*the Phillies in*  
*Sept. 1981.*

## Mission Statement

The Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter purpose is to advance the art and science of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, for the reduction of life and property losses from fire, to maintain high ethical standards on engineering among its members and to foster fire protection education.

Recognition of fire protection engineering as a discrete engineering discipline is a prime goal. Engineering disciplines exist because there is a special body of knowledge based on the fundamentals of mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering science and economics.

The chapter strives to facilitate sharing of sound engineering experiences and knowledge between its members and the fire protection community in general with an active program of education and scholarship activities.

Phila-Delaware Valley  
SFPE



**We're on the web!**  
**[www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org)**

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## Directions to Jacobs Engineering

### From Central Philadelphia:

Follow the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) west to Exit 29 (Conshohocken). Stay in the center lane. At the traffic light, go straight and cross the Fayette Street Bridge. **At the next traffic light, turn right onto Elm Street. Go two blocks and turn right onto Ash Street. Three Tower Bridge is 1/8 mile on your right at the end of the street.**

### From Philadelphia International Airport and points south:

North on I-95 to Exit 7. Follow I-476 North (toward Plymouth Meeting) to Exit 16. Follow signs for Route 23 Conshohocken. At the traffic light at the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Continue down road merging into the center lane. At the traffic light, go straight and cross the Fayette Street Bridge. Continue from bold text above.

### From Allentown and points north:

Take the Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike south to Exit 25A (Mid-County Interchange). Follow signs to I-476 South. Continue to Exit 16 (Valley Forge). On the off-ramp, follow signs to Route 23 Conshohocken. At the traffic light at the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Continue down road merging into the center lane. At the traffic light, go straight and cross the Fayette Street Bridge. Continue from bold text above.

### From New York and Northern New Jersey:

Take the New Jersey Turnpike south to exit 6 (PA Turnpike). Take PA Turnpike west to exit 25A (Mid-County Interchange). Follow signs to I-476 South. Continue to Exit 16 (Valley Forge). On the off-ramp, follow signs to Route 23 Conshohocken. At the traffic light at the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Continue down road merging into the center lane. Continue from bold text above.

### From points west:

On the PA Turnpike, Take exit 24 (King of Prussia). Follow signs for I-76 east (toward Philadelphia). Take exit 28B (Plymouth Meeting). Follow signs for Route 23 Conshohocken. Continue from bold text above.

**Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.**  
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**Conshohocken, PA 19482-2074**